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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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## Wheat Crop May Total 1.3 Billion Bushels

Weather in most areas has been favorable to winter wheat. Acreage for harvest--55.7 million--has never been exceeded. Better than a billion bushels indicated as of May 1 for winter wheat alone. Conditions also have been mostly favorable for seeding spring wheat. Little foreseen to prevent seedings from reaching earlier intentions. Average yields on prospective acreage for spring wheat would bring '49 wheat crop (winter and spring) to about 1.3 billion bushels. No official estimate for spring wheat will be made until June 10.

## Rye Promising But Acreage Small

A rye crop of only 21 million bushels is now indicated. Yields promising, but acreage, except for '46, smallest in 75 years.

## Oats Condition Favorable

Oats crop in the 10 Southern States, favorable. Condition 81 percent, compares with 63 percent year ago and 72 percent 10-year average. More fall oats than usual are reported--69 percent fall sown as against average of 58 percent.

## Good Prospects for Hay--Stocks of Old Hay Plentiful Except in Severe Snow-Swept Areas

Hay prospects are good in nearly all States, May 1 condition being lower than average in only 5 States. U. S. condition (all hay in the East, only tame hay in the West) 87 percent; year ago, 86; 10-year average, 84.

Farm stocks of old hay May 1 totaled about 15.2 million tons. This is a little more than a year ago but a little less than 10-year average. Mild winter made for light feeding of hay in the eastern part of the country. Here stocks are plentiful--near or above last year; also in Southwest and in Pacific States. But in the area stretching from Idaho and Utah to Minnesota and Wisconsin severe winter made heavy feeding necessary and farm stocks of hay are not so plentiful. Hay stocks also are lower than a year ago in Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

## Pasture Condition Unusually High

Farm pastures May 1 growing unusually well and furnishing green feed for livestock in most parts of the country. Prospects for early summer grazing generally good. Condition averaged 85 percent of normal, 1 point higher than a year ago, and the second highest for the date in two decades.

## March Slaughter Up

U. S. meat production in commercial plants in March totaled about 1.7 billion pounds, up 9 percent from February and up 7 percent from March last year. Production first 3 months also was up a little--about 1 percent--from the same period in '48; the beef out it was up 2 percent, pork 3 percent; veal down 7 percent; mutton and lamb down 15 percent. ("Livestock Slaughter By States, March 1949" was released by BAE May 5.)

## Meat Animal Pounds in '48 Only 2 Percent Below '47 and Exceeds '37-46 Average Production

Farm production from meat animals in '48 totaled about 2 percent less than in '47 and 17 percent less than the record production in 1943. Last year was the fifth consecutive year of declining production. But the production last year exceeds every year prior to '42, also exceeds the '37-46 average by 3 percent. Total last year was 38.6 billion pounds; total in '47, 39.3 billion; record production in '43, 46.6 billion pounds.

## '48 Cotton Crop Nearly 14.9 Million Bales

BAE's final cotton report for '48 places total crop at 14,868,000 bales, largest crop since '37. Crop in '47 was 11.9 million; 10-year average, 12 million bales. Indicated value of the '48 crop (lint) is more than 2.2 billion dollars, compared with 1.9 billion for the '47 crop. Value of cotton and cottonseed combined, at \$2,641,336,000 is the highest on record.

## More Seed for Crushing

Cotton seed from '48-crop ginnings totals about 5.9 million tons compared with 4.7 million tons from previous crop. About 5.4 million tons, or 91 percent of the crop will reach oil mills for crushing compared with about 4 million tons, or 87 percent, from the '47 crop. Value of the '48 crop of cottonseed, more than 400 million dollars, is about the same as that of '47.

## 1948 Tobacco Total Nearly 2 Billion Pounds

Revised estimate of total production of all tobacco in '48 is 1,982 million pounds, about 6 percent below the '47 crop but within 15 percent of the record high of '46. Present estimate is about 4½ percent higher than the preliminary report in December. Most of this increase came about in the burley crop, which weighed out much heavier than had been indicated earlier. Average yield per acre of all tobacco was 1,275 pounds, highest of record. Yield in '47 was 1,139 pounds. Previous record, in '46, was 1,182 pounds per acre.

## Tobacco Crop Brings Nearly 1 Billion Dollars

The value of all tobacco produced in '48 was \$951,526,000, or 48 cents a pound. This is the highest price per pound for any crop of record and compares with 43.5 cents per pound in '47. The value of production was exceeded only in '46 when the crop brought \$1,046,442,000. The gross value for all tobacco in '48, \$612 per acre, compares with \$496 per acre in '47.

## More Truck This Spring--Some Items Down

Tonnage of truck for spring harvest is expected to be heavier than last year and well above 10-year average. But individual crops will vary. Up from last spring will be asparagus, cabbage, lettuce, watermelons, snapbeans, beets, Honey Ball melons and spinach. Down from last spring but above average, will be carrots, tomatoes, cantaloups, cucumbers, celery, cauliflower, eggplant and green peppers.

## Early Potatoes Better Than Average

Early Irish potatoes (10 southern States and California) condition 87 percent, 7 points higher than condition year ago and 9 points above May 1 average. Condition well above average in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Oklahoma and Texas; slightly above-average in Georgia, Mississippi and California, average in Arkansas; and slightly below average in Louisiana.

## Average or Better Fruit Prospects

Despite damage from frost in April, in some localities, fruit prospects May 1 were about average or better.

## Peaches Cut Short Again in the South

Peaches will be a short crop for the second successive year in the southeastern area, but the outlook is good in all other important sections, particularly in California. A crop of 14.7 million bushels is indicated for the 10 southern States. This compares with 14.1 million bushels for the short crop last year,

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	March 15 1949	April 15 1949	April 15 1949
Wheat, bu. ....	dol. 1.98	2.00	2.17
Corn, bu. ....	dol. 1.18	1.22	1.58
Peanuts, lb. ....	ct. 10.5	10.6	11.8
Cotton, lb. ....	ct. 28.74	29.91	30.50
Potatoes, bu. ....	dol. 1.74	1.81	1.80
Hogs, 100 lb. ....	dol. 20.00	18.60	17.90
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....	dol. 20.50	20.80	13.30
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....	dol. 24.50	24.90	16.60
Lambs, 100 lb. ....	dol. 23.60	25.80	14.50
Butterfat, lb. ....	ct. 1/ 62.5	1/ 62.0	64.7
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. ....	1/2/ 4.11	1/ 4.01	3.94
Chickens, live, lb. ....	ct. 30.4	31.0	28.0
Eggs, doz. ....	ct. 41.2	42.3	52.9

1/ Seasonally adjusted.  
2/ Revised.



22.4 million in 1947, and the 10-year average of 18.3 million bushels for these States. North Carolina and South Carolina will be about three-fourths of average; Georgia less than two-thirds of average.

#### Apples and Other Deciduous Fruits Average or Better

Apples were frost damaged in the Appalachian area, but for the country as a whole the outturn is expected to be above average. Even in the frost-damaged Appalachian orchards enough bloom generally escaped injury to warrant hope for an average crop. For the other deciduous fruits, prospects were also average or better.

#### Large New Crops of Oranges and Grapefruit

The 1949-50 citrus crop will be short in Texas because of the January freeze damage and resultant removal of trees. Freeze damage also limited the California lemon crop, but Florida and California expect large crops of oranges and grapefruit.

#### Old-Crop Citrus Estimates

The '48-49 orange crop, estimated at 98.3 million boxes, is down 11 percent from the '47-48 crop. The '48-49 crop of grapefruit, at 45.8 million boxes, is down 26 percent; and the old crop of California lemons, at 8.9 million boxes, is down 31 percent from the '47-48 crop. About 33 million boxes of oranges were available for use after May 1 this year (made up of 21 million boxes of California Valencias, 1 million California Navels, and miscellaneous, nearly 11 million Florida Valencias, and some from other States), compared with about 40 million boxes used after May 1 last year. Only about 4.5 million boxes of grapefruit were available for use on May 1 this year, compared with about 10 million used after May 1 last year.

#### Fewer Bees Shipped

A total of 1,164,000 lbs. of package bees were shipped in '48--15 percent less than in '47. Queens shipped by package bee producers totaled 858,800 compared with 1,007,200 in '47--also 15 percent less.

#### More Maple Sirup Than Last Year

More maple sugar and maple sirup was produced this year than last year, though both were below average. The 1,611,000 gallons of sirup produced exceeded last year's production by 11 percent. Production was up from last year in each producing State except Maine and Vermont where unseasonably warm temperatures resulted in disappointing runs. Maple sugar production, at 341,000 pounds, was 49 percent larger than in '48.

#### Beet and Cane Sugar Estimates

Production of sugar from the 1948 continental cane and beet crops is now estimated at 1,846,000 tons, equivalent raw value compared with 2,211,000 tons in '47. Estimate consists of 1,369,000 tons from beets and 477,000 tons from cane. This compares with 1,835,000 tons of beet sugar and 376,000 tons of cane sugar in '47.

#### Milk Production Continues High

Milk per cow continued high in April. The smaller number of milk cows tended to hold down increase in total production. But the 10.2 billion pounds produced in April was about 3½ percent greater than the 9.9 billion pounds produced in April last year. Production first 4 months this year was also up from same months last year--36.7 billion pounds compared with 35.5 billion.

#### Egg Production Above Average

Farm flocks laid 6.1 billion eggs in April, 2 percent above the 10-year April average. Egg production was down from last year in all parts of the country except the South Atlantic and Western States. Increase in rate of lay first 4 months put production ahead of same months last year, despite fewer hens. January-April, 21.6 billion; same months last year, 21.4 billion; average, 19.3 billion eggs.

#### Poultry Feeding Favorable

Price of feed, as compared with prices of eggs, chickens and turkeys, much more favorable to feeders than a year ago. Poultry ration cost \$3.53 (100 pounds) in April; year ago, \$4.71.

#### Good Prices for Poultry

Eggs brought farmers 42.3 cents dozen mid-April, about same as year earlier. Chickens averaged 31 cents pound live weight. Year ago, 28 cents; 10-year average, 20.4 cents. Live turkeys brought 42.6 cents, highest for April in 17 years. Brought 5 cents pound less last year at this time.

#### Big Stocks of Soybeans

Total stocks of soybeans April 1 exceeded last year's stocks at this time by 29 percent and were the largest for the date since '43. The 114 million bushels included 51.6 million bushels on farms, 7.2 million at terminals, 36.3 million at processing plants, and 19.2 million bushels in interior mills, elevators and warehouses.

#### Flaxseed Stocks, 29 Million Bushels

Flaxseed stocks in all storage positions April 1 totaled about 29 million bushels, compared with 18.6 million bushels a year earlier. Stocks on January 1 were about 39 million bushels. This means January-March disappearance has been 10 million bushels.

#### One-Sixth More Farm Phones Since '45

About 37 percent of U. S. farms now have telephones, according to a recent BAE survey. Only 32 percent had phones in '45. Only 12 percent have phones in the East South Central States; 13 percent in the South Atlantic. New England States, 72 percent. Other regions range in between these extremes.

#### 69 Percent of Farms Have Electric Current

About 69 percent of all farms now have "Central Station" electricity, compared with 48 percent in '45. Present regional range is from 49 percent in the East South Central States to 94 percent in the Pacific States. South Atlantic farmers made biggest proportionate gain since '45. Gain was from 38 percent to 68 percent.

#### Little Change Last Month in Prices Received But Prices Paid by Farmers Continue High

Index of prices received by farmers mid-April went down only 1 point from March. Index at 260 is 47 points below record high of 307 reached in January '48. Sharp declines in prices of dairy products and truck crops more than offset increases in fruit and cotton prices.

Index of prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, was unchanged at 246. Index is still only 5 points below record high. Increased cost to farmers of feed and fertilizer was not enough to change the general level of prices paid. Compared with a year ago the prices paid level was lower by only 3 index points or 1 percent. For the 12-month period, farmers' clothing had dropped 4 percent, food 3, building materials and furniture only about 1 percent.

#### April Farm Employment Up; Total Employment Also Up From March

People working on farms week ended April 23 totaled 11,089,000--an increase over March of one and three-quarter million workers. More than 2 million were hired workers. Month earlier hired totaled 1.3 million; family workers, 7.5 million. Despite the increase from a month earlier, the number at work on farms is down a little from a year ago.

Civilian employment in April (Census) totaled 57.8 million up from 57.6 million in March. Total in April last year was 58.3 million. In April 2 years ago, only 56.7 million civilians were at work.

#### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	April 1949
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14= 100	260
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes .....	1910-14= 100	246
Parity ratio .....	1910-14= 100	106
Wholesale prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	253
Retail prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	1 1/2 260
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14= 100	2 1/2 408
Weekly factory earnings .....	1910-14= 100	3 1/2 487
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-April 1948	Jan.-April 1949
Milk, (Bil. lb.) .....	35.5	36.7
Eggs, (Bil.) .....	21.4	21.6
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) * .....	4 1/2 1643	4 1/2 1739
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) * .....	4 1/2 171	4 1/2 158
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) * .....	4 1/2 2409	4 1/2 3091
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) * .....	4 1/2 4383	4 1/2 4684

\* Federally inspected only. 1/ March figure.

2/ Unadjusted for seasonal variation.

3/ February figure. Factory payroll per employed worker.

4/ January-March